

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
FACULTY MEETING**

Tuesday, September 29, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m.

Attendance: Marsha Baum, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Paul Biderman, Barbara Blumenfeld, Sherri Burr, Camille Carey, Barbara Creel, Chris Fritz, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gómez, April Land, Nathalie Martin, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Daniel Ortega, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Liz Rapaport, Leo Romero, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Kevin Washburn, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Lacey Daniels

Staff/Sr. Admin: Sandra Bauman, Hannah Farrington, John Feldman, William Jackson, Peggy Lovato, Bonnie Stepleton

Guests: Briggs Cheney, The Hon. William Lang, Bill Stratvert

- I. Lawyers Assistance Program Presentation – Briggs Cheney, The Hon. William Lang, Bill Stratvert
 - a. Mr. Cheney, Judge Lang and Mr. Stratvert presented the purpose, goal and process of the Lawyers Assistance Program (which deals with alcohol and drug usage and addiction issues).
 - b. They encouraged the faculty to be proactive if there is any concern about a student. The confidentiality of the entire process was stressed.
 - c. Questions were invited and discussion ensued.

- II. Announcements and Approval of September 1, 2009, Minutes
 - a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Some minor corrections were identified. Upon a vote, the motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed unanimously.
 - b. Dean Washburn gave the following updates:
 - i. He mentioned recent feedback from federal judges and individuals from various law firms regarding recruitment and placement of our students.
 - ii. He described as successful a September 28th recruitment event held in Las Cruces, which saw good turnout from alums as well as potential students.
 - iii. Professorships and chairs will be announced shortly, with a methodology in place and valuable input from Professors Norwood, Bergman and Romero, who have greater past history than Dean Washburn at present.
 - iv. Later in the meeting Dean Washburn promoted Professor Burr's "Art Law In Egypt" intersession class in conjunction with a main campus program. The class offers credit for students and CLE credit for lawyers.

III. Budget – Dean Kevin Washburn

- a. Dean Washburn highlighted information from a recent budget meeting for deans and University administrative personnel for the faculty.
- b. Furloughs in some form may be considered as one possible short-term solution for dealing with budgetary shortfalls. There is no definite plan as to what furloughs might look like.
- c. Utilizing portions of the main campus presentation and a projected spreadsheet detailing the SOL budget, the Dean described what impacts a 3-5% reduction might result for the Law School.
- d. Questions and discussion ensued throughout as well as at the conclusion of the presentation.

IV. Development/Reunion – Hannah Farrington

- a. Ms. Farrington spoke about the development strategy and vision the law school is implementing. She asked faculty for help in creating “passion” by highlighting happenings within SOL that are new, transformational or compelling.
- b. She then provided a brief description of the recent Reunion weekend events, including the new objectives upon which events were planned. Ms. Farrington reported that overall the events were successful, and asked for constructive input from faculty. She shared that the predominant feedback from attendees was their appreciation of seeing and interacting with faculty, and she thanked the faculty for making themselves available to alums.
- c. The alumni magazine is being redesigned to become more of a magazine than a newsletter. To that end, Ms. Farrington provided an overview of the proposed changes in format and content. Faculty were requested to provide information about their goings-on, both in class and in extracurricular activities, for potential inclusion in the magazine.
- d. Questions and discussion ensued.
- e. Details about the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Dinner, on October 9th, were given and faculty were encouraged to attend.

V. Orientation – Bonnie Stepleton

- a. Utilizing the list of suggested improvements generated by the faculty last year, Ms. Stepleton recapped the recent First Year Orientation Program.
- b. Many of the improvements were implemented, as well as procedural and functional changes. The students seemed able to develop camaraderie quickly and have provided generally positive feedback.
- c. The planning process for next year is in the works.
- d. Comments and suggestions were offered.

VI. Writing Assessment – Associate Dean Barbara Bergman

- a. Professor Bergman recapped the origination of the new one-hour class and ad hoc committee.
- b. She proceeded to describe the committee’s current and planned activities in regard to evaluation and vision-casting for the program.
- c. The committee hopes to be able to report its conclusions by the end of the semester.

VII. Faculty Handbook – Associate Dean Carol Parker

- a. Professor Parker presented a “walk-through” demonstration of the online Faculty Handbook, which is accessible through a password protected site on the Law School Intranet.
- b. The handbook is currently in draft mode and Professor Parker invites suggestions for additions or modifications. She will collect any offered and present them to either the deans or the faculty, dependant on the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to the Dean